

U.S.: 430,000 Iraqis in or near Kuwait

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Defense Department said Tuesday there were now 430,000 Iraqi troops in or near Kuwait, an increase of 70,000 over the past week. But Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams refused to say how many of those troops were actually in Kuwait and he told reporters the Iraqi forces remained essentially in a defensive posture. The Pentagon said last week there were approximately 360,000 Iraqi troops either in Kuwait or areas of Iraq north and west of Kuwait. That was up from 265,000 the previous week. Williams said there were now some 3,500 Iraqi tanks, 2,500 armoured personnel carriers and about 1,700 artillery pieces in the region. That was an increase of 700 tanks, 700 personnel carriers and 200 artillery pieces over the past week. He said Pentagon analysts felt the major increases in Iraqi troop strength was that some heavy armoured units had been moved out of Kuwait and replaced by infantry units containing more soldiers. "Our analysts think what they (Iraqis) are gaining here is flexibility," Williams said.

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Jordan recalls ambassador to Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has recalled its ambassador to Saudi Arabia in protest at the closure of its military attaché's office in Riyadh and an enforced cut in the number of its diplomats, the foreign ministry announced Tuesday. A ministry official described the Saudi move as "unjustifiable."

Journalists urge Bush to avert war

AMMAN (J.T.) — The leader of a group of self-described conservative journalists has appealed to President George Bush to avert war in the Gulf. "Though the public polls show substantial support for immoderate actions in Iraq and the still stiffer for bellicose Zionists, Mr. (William) Safre and other Israeli spokesmen are urging you to attack Iraq, Israel will be the only winner," said James G. Knox, founder of American Focus, in a letter addressed to Bush. "The American people will come to understand that their real and "vital" interest in fact is not in the Persian Gulf," said the Aug. 27 letter, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times. "Please do not allow our Israeli friends to take an incident which will cause you to make an unwise response. Simply keep the pressure on and negotiate. No shooting, please!" it said.

U.N. adopts aid resolution

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Security Council Monday adopted a brief resolution calling for aid to nations suffering economic hardship from loss of trade with Iraq. They include Jordan and about a dozen other countries.

Saudi killed in car crash, 4 U.S. Marines injured

DAHRAN (AP) — A Saudi Arabian civilian was killed and six people, including four U.S. marines, were injured in a two-vehicle collision on a Saudi expressway, U.S. military officials said Tuesday. They said the accident involving a civilian taxi and a marine vehicle, occurred about 1:20 p.m. (0930 GMT) Monday on the six-lane highway 3 kilometers north of Jubail, a major oil port on the Gulf. A statement issued by U.S. officials said the Saudi victim was "pronounced dead at the scene of the accident" and the six injured were taken to a military hospital. The unidentified person was the first Saudi citizen reported killed in an incident involving American military personnel since the buildup in operation Desert Shield began in early August.

Saud in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saad Al Faisal arrived in Damascus Tuesday on a previously unannounced visit for talks on the Gulf crisis, officials and diplomats said. Prince Faisal, who flew in as Syrian President Hafez Al Assad returned from a visit to Iran, told reporters on arrival he was carrying a message for Assad from King Fahd.

Oslo refuses sales to UAE

OSLO (AP) — Parliament voted down a proposal to sell Sidewinder rockets, produced in a European joint venture, to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), news reports said Tuesday. Lawmakers killed the sale in a 19-97 vote late Monday, citing a 1959 law against providing weapons to countries at war or on the brink of war. The emirates had requested the weapons following Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Sheikh Jaber heads for U.S.

TAIF (AP) — The exiled emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, left Tuesday for New York on his second public appearance outside Saudi Arabia since Iraq invaded his country. Sheikh Jaber is to address the U.N. General Assembly Thursday.

Iraq, Jordan welcome Mitterrand's peace plan

French envoy says Jordan, France on same course

By Rehab Mango with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Iraq and Jordan Tuesday welcomed four-stage French plan to resolve the Gulf crisis and achieve peace in the Middle East.

The Iraqi reaction to the plan, outlined by French President François Mitterrand in a speech to the United Nations General Assembly Monday, came in an Iraqi News Agency (INA) dispatch which quoted a government spokesman as saying that the French leader's speech as "an attempt to find solution to regional problems," while accepting that it was natural to expect differences between two countries on the way forward in the Gulf crisis.

"We sense a non-aggressive language in the speech... and an attempt to find solutions to regional problems," the spokesman was quoted as saying. "Such a vital and interactive link between problems in the region is what reassures the Arabs and not the right of Israel to live in security;"

A mutually agreed reduction of arms and the beginning of cooperation in the Arab World "from Iran to Morocco."

If Iraq would confirm its intentions to withdraw its troops

and free the hostages (Westerners held as deterrents against a possible American assault), every thing is possible," Mitterrand had told the U.N. assembly.

He outlined the four stages through which all conflicts of the Middle East, including the Gulf crisis, could be resolved and peace restored to the region. These are:

— Confirmation of Iraqi intentions to withdraw from Kuwait and freedom for all Westerners held in Iraq;

— International guarantees for the withdrawal of foreign military forces and for the restoration of the sovereignty of Kuwait and "the democratic will of the Kuwaiti people;"

— Arab and international involvement in efforts to resolve all outstanding problems in the Middle East, including the presence of foreign troops in Lebanon, the aspirations of the Palestinian people for an independent state and the right of Israel to live in security;

— A mutually agreed reduction of arms and the beginning of cooperation in the Arab World "from Iran to Morocco."

In Amman, a senior Foreign Ministry official described the

U.S. cautiously positive towards French plan

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House reacted cautiously Tuesday to a four-stage plan for a comprehensive Middle East peace agreement proposed by French President François Mitterrand.

"We certainly are willing to examine every avenue that would lead to a peaceful solution. But at this moment it's something we'd have to talk to President Mitterrand about and examine in more detail," spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

Fitzwater added that the United States and France were in accord on the U.N. sanctions against Iraq "and are very close on the course of action that's been taken to implement them."

President George Bush said Monday he was "not going to yield one inch" on his conditions for removing the sanctions, including a complete and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

In this regard, Prince Hassan pointed to paragraph three of

Gulf settlement to the solution of other problems in the Middle East: The Arab-Israeli conflict and the Lebanese problem.

The spokesman quoted by INA

Tuesday said such a link was essential since Arabs no longer had confidence in promises made by the international community to restore the rights of the Palestinian people.

The second stage of the French

French initiative as "positive."

"France is very influential in the European Community," the official noted. "The initiative is encouraging because it seeks a negotiated settlement rather than an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait," said the official, who asked not to be quoted by name.

(Continued on page 4)

Shevardnadze: Use of force should be last resort in Gulf

Combined agency dispatches

UNITED NATIONS — Every form of non-military means should be tried to bring about an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait before applying force to end the Gulf crisis, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told the United Nations Tuesday.

Reminding Iraq that the U.N. had the power to suppress "acts of aggression," Shevardnadze said: "Before — and I reiterate — before this all political, peaceful, non-military forms of pressure must be applied to the aggressor, obviously of combination with economic and other enforcement measures."

Shevardnadze hinted at the possibility of a joint U.N. military operation, emphasising that "the United Nations has the power to suppress acts of aggression."

"There is ample evidence that this right can be exercised," he said.

He referred to the Aug. 2 invasion as that "black Thursday" when "Iraq flagrantly violated the United Nations Charter, the principles of international law, the universally recognised norms of morality and the standards of civilised behaviour."

"Some may find that Iraq is being judged by a different, higher standard than that applied to other countries, even in the quite recent past," said Shevardnadze.

"My answer is this: It is good that we have reached this point. It is good that we have adopted a universal

human yardstick of good and evil, that we are calling aggression by its proper name and consider it necessary to condemn and punish its perpetrator and to help the victim of injustice." Kuwait, he said.

"An act of terrorism has been perpetrated against the emerging new world order," he said.

Warning that "war may break out in the Gulf region any day, any moment," Shevardnadze said: "From this rostrum we would like to appeal once again to the leaders of Iraq."

"We are doing it as their old friends and as a country that found courage to condemn its wrongdoings against certain stages in the past.

"We call upon them to hear reason, to obey the demands of the law and to

(Continued on page 4)

Israeli court clears plan to demolish Bureij homes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel's supreme court ruled Tuesday that the army can demolish Palestinian shops and houses in the Gaza Strip's Bureij refugee camp, where a soldier was killed last week.

The decision by the three-judge panel cancelled a temporary restraining order issued Monday night by a single high court judge.

The restraining order was obtained by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, which argued that the Palestinians should be given an opportunity to appeal the army's demolition order.

Five shops and houses were destroyed Monday before the restraining order went into effect, and another 18 are slated for destruction, the army says.

The house demolitions came

five days after an Israeli soldier was killed in the Bureij Camp. But army officials insisted destruction of the buildings was not intended as punishment for his death.

The soldier was killed after his car hit a donkey cart, injuring two Palestinian teenagers.

The camp has been under curfew since incidents and have been prohibited from entering.

The nearby Nusseirat camp and the Jabalya camp to the north were put under curfew Tuesday to prevent violence, the army said.

The judicial panel, headed by Menachem Elkin, deputy chief justice of the supreme court, announced its decision Tuesday but did not make public its full ruling.

In an unusual court appearance

Mazal Vilni, commander of the southern command, argued that the demolitions of houses and shops was necessary to meet "an immediate and urgent military need."

Vilni told the court that 33 build-

ings were slated for demolition.

During the Palestinian uprising that started in December 1987, the army has demolished more than 300 homes.

Human rights groups and the U.S. State Department have condemned the demolition of houses as collective punishment and a violation of legal norms since in most cases the suspects are not tried.

Alexandra Senft, spokeswoman for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which administers the Bureij camp, said more than 40 families would be affected by the demolitions.

Senft said that UNRWA workers were allowed into the camp Tuesday but were prevented by soldiers from going near the main street to inspect the area being levelled.

The ambassador was speaking after seeing off his military attaché, Staff Colonel Mohammad Mahmoud Al Meshadi, who was expelled on Friday just two weeks after arriving in Cairo.

Meschedi and his staff were given seven days to leave Egypt in retaliation for Baghdad's expulsion of his

personal property unless this was necessary for military operations.

Iraq envoy says Arab forces can stay in S. Arabia

CAIRO (R) — Iraq's envoy to Cairo said Tuesday that Arab forces could stay in Saudi Arabia on condition Western and other non-Arab troops pulled out of the kingdom.

"We are doing it as their old friends and as a country that found courage to condemn its wrongdoings against certain stages in the past.

"We call upon them to hear reason, to obey the demands of the law and to

(Continued on page 4)

Soviets back call for Mideast peace forum

PALMA DE MAJORCA, Spain (R) — The Soviet Union Tuesday

backed a Spanish-Italian proposal for a conference on security from Mauritania to the Gulf.

But with Arab-Israeli tensions

certain to be a central issue gain-

ing the support of the United

States and Israel remained a

a tricky hurdle.

Igor Andropov, chief Soviet

delegate at a Majorca meeting

of the conference on security and

cooperation (CSCE), said in a

speech: "While many features...

are yet to take shape, our attitude

towards this idea is a positive one in general."

Andropov, the diplomat son of

the late Soviet leader Yuri

Andropov, said the Gulf crisis

had shown the need for "a more

comprehensive approach to overcom-

ing the problems of this entire

region."

Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis and Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez

launched their proposal for a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean (CSCM), with a wide brief also covering the Mid-

dle East and the Gulf.

De Michelis said he hoped the

Paris meeting planned for Novem-

ber of the 35 nations that

signed the 1975 Helsinki CSCE

accord would formally endorse

a Mediterranean initiative in

1988 and renewed them last year.

De Michelis, who met Gorbačev in Moscow 10 days ago,

said the Kremlin realised the new

initiative was "more realistic and

sensible" than the series of Soviet

proposals over the last 20 years.

Andropov said the timing of the

Italian and Spanish initiative

was crucial, in the middle of the

Gulf crisis and before the planned

Paris meeting.

"Each of us has the right to ask

using the words of the Bible: 'If

not us, then who? If not now,

then when?'" he said.

U.S. doubts apart

Kaifu to visit Mideast next week

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will tour five Middle East countries affected by the Gulf crisis next week after meeting U.S. President George Bush in New York, the government announced Tuesday.

Kaifu, the first head of the group of seven industrialised countries to tour the Middle East since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, will visit Egypt, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Oman.

He will discuss with their leaders how Japan can best help the region, the statement said.

Japan has pledged \$2 billion to Jordan and Turkey, among the hardest hit by the imposition of economic sanctions against Iraq.

Japan has earmarked another \$2 billion for the multinational forces in Saudi Arabia.

Kaifu is to leave for New York Friday to attend a special United Nations summit on children Sept. 29-30. He is scheduled to meet with Bush Saturday.

He is due to arrive in Cairo Oct. 2 for a week-long trip in the Middle East. He is the first Japanese premier to tour the region since 1978. Japan imports about 70 per cent of its oil from the Middle East.

In addition to Japan, the Group of Seven includes the United States, Canada, England, France, West Germany and Italy.

Japan, countering criticism that it was not adequately supporting U.N.-sanctioned action in the

Gulf, reiterated Monday its intention to provide as much as \$2 billion in aid to the region.

A spokesman for Foreign Minister Taro Makayama pointed out at a briefing on the opening day of general debate of the 45th session of the U.N. General Assembly that Japan has committed \$2 billion for multinational forces and \$2 billion additional for front-line states.

"We have already dispersed \$2 million for evacuate relief," said Makoto Yamamoto, the spokesman.

On Sept. 18, a Japanese government spokesman said in Tokyo that officials were drafting legislation that would allow the government to sidestep a post-War II constitutional ban on sending troops to international conflicts.

Yamanaka said Japan was committed to "peace-restoring activities in the region."

He also said that talks with the Soviet Union over the small Kurile islands, occupied by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II, were continuing although, "they haven't made real substantive progress yet."

The two nations have not signed a peace pact since World War II, primarily because of the dispute over the northern territories. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has agreed to come to Tokyo in 1991. "We are determined to continue this negotiation," said Yamanaka.

Some Socialists want U.N. military action in Gulf

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Some Socialist parties seek a United Nations decision calling for military enforcement of its sanctions against Iraq, but others believe it is not yet necessary, Socialist International leaders say.

"We are looking for diplomatic solutions. We would welcome an Arab solution or a solution with the United Nations, which would avoid the military confrontation," said Luis Ayala of Chile, general secretary of Socialist International.

But, he said, some parties are willing to participate in a U.N.-established military force to make Iraq withdraw from Kuwait and to free foreign nationals.

"There are parties which would look for that U.N. decision," Ayala said, when pressed about whether the Socialists approve of the military action already taken by the United States and other Western nations to enforce the U.N. embargo against Iraq.

Conny Frederiksson, of the Swedish Social Democratic Party, commented that Sweden has for many years pushed for progress on a U.N. call for an international conference on the Palestinian problem "and no one has ever discussed military action in that respect."

Frederiksson said his party has not discussed whether it supports or opposes the action by some Western nations to enforce the U.N. resolutions against Iraq militarily. "But the presence of

large numbers of troops increases the risks," he said.

Nabeel Sha'ath, chairman of the Central Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) and a leader of Fatah presented the PLO's views on the Gulf crisis to members of the Socialist International.

The Socialist International Middle East Committee, meeting in Stockholm for one day to discuss the Gulf crisis, included two Israelis — Israel Gat of the Israel Labour Party and Elazar Granot of the United Workers' Party. They were at the session with Sha'ath, Ayala said.

A 1986 amendment to Israel's law makes it illegal for Israelis to hold talks with members of the PLO and other groups declared as "terrorist" organisations. Conviction can bring a sentence of up to three years in jail.

But the law generally has been interpreted as prohibiting one-on-one meetings. Israelis who have had contacts with PLO leaders at international forums have not been prosecuted.

The Middle East Committee of Socialist International, the Association of Socialist and Social Democratic Parties, will make recommendations to the international executive. It will meet in New York Oct. 8-9 to issue a final statement on solutions to the Gulf crisis.

The Socialist International Party leaders, who met in Helsinki on Sept. 5, have already condemned Iraq's invasion called for it to abide by U.N. resolutions, and asked for aid to refugees and the neighbouring states suffering economic hardship because of compliance with the embargoes.

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PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ... Documentary ... Kora
15:40 ... Programme review ... News in French
15:45 ... Children's programme ... Classical Music
17:28 ... Educational programme ... News in Arabic
18:00 ... News in Arabic ... Arabic news message
18:30 ... Local programme ... News in Arabic
20:00 ... Arabic programme ... Arabic series
21:30 ... Arabic programme ... Arabic series
23:00 ... News in Arabic ... News in Arabic
23:40 ... Play ... Play

PROGRAMME TWO

18:05 ... Documentary ... News in French ... Classical Music
19:00 ... News in Arabic ... News in Hebrew
19:15 ... Documentary ... News in Arabic ... News in Arabic
19:30 ... Documentary ... News in Arabic ... News in Arabic
21:10 ... Documentary ... Economic Perspective ... News in English
22:00 ... Feature film: "Dead Man Out"

PRAYER TIMES

05:34 ... Fajr ... (Searle) Dafa
06:21 ... (Searle) Dafa ... Dafra
12:27 ... 'Asr ... Magrib
15:54 ... Magrib ... Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Tel Aviv, Tel. 610740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637448.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Tenants Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 623543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

International Church Tel. 685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and winds will be northerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, it will be dusty and winds will be northerly moderate.

Iran-Iraq border virtually back to normal

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

— Five weeks after Baghdad announced it was withdrawing all its troops from territory it held in Iran, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar reported Monday that the withdrawal is almost complete.

Perez de Cuellar announced the finding in a report to the Security Council, in which he requested a two-month extension of the U.N.-Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) to complete verification of the withdrawal.

The group includes about 400 military observers sent to the border region when a ceasefire took effect in August 1988 to separate the warring Iranian and Iraqi armies.

Verifying the withdrawal of troops under a 1987 Security Council resolution was another part of the group's mission.

Iraq last month said it was giving up all territory its troops

had held when the truce took effect, in an attempt to neutralise Iran while it dealt with the buildup of the U.S.-led multinational force in Saudi Arabia.

"Iraq assured UNIIMOG of its determination not to occupy any part of Iranian territory and Iraqi survey teams are currently visiting the entire length of the internationally recognised boundaries," said Perez de Cuellar.

Group officials have also asked Iran to withdraw its forces in some areas, and Iran "has also assured UNIIMOG that it does not intend to occupy any Iraqi territory and Iranian survey teams also are currently visiting the entire length of the internationally recognised boundaries described in a 1975 treaty."

In his report to the Security Council, the secretary-general said a few locations remained where, in UNIIMOG's view, Iranian and Iraqi forces remained on the wrong side of the internationally recognised boundaries.

"In these circumstances, I believe that it would be prudent for the Security Council to extend the mandate of UNIIMOG for a limited period, which I recom-

mend should be of two months, that is until Nov. 30, 1990," he said.

Perez de Cuellar asked the Security Council for a two-month extension of the force, reduced to about 240 officers, to help complete the survey and withdrawal.

The group has cost about \$7 million per month to operate. It sent out about 68 patrols daily by jeep and car, boats, planes, helicopters and on foot to monitor the 1,100-kilometre front between Iraq and Iran.

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"In these circumstances, I believe that it would be prudent for the Security Council to extend the mandate of UNIIMOG for a limited period, which I recom-

mend should be of two months, that is until Nov. 30, 1990," he said.

This would permit UNIIMOG to complete its tasks and allow time for the parties and the Security Council to judge whether there was a continuing need for a third party to monitor the ceasefire on the internationally recognised boundaries.

Among UNIIMOG's tasks would be to help Iran and Iraq establish an area of separation on either side of the border in which both would agree not to deploy military forces.

Perez de Cuellar said one side has already agreed to the idea of setting up such a demilitarized zone while the other was still studying it.

Since only about 60 per cent of UNIIMOG's present strength would be needed, an immediate reduction could thus be made, assuming the council agreed to extend its mandate, he added.

Colombo to probe report Mossad trained both sides

COLOMBO (AP)

— The government says it will investigate allegations that Israel simultaneously trained its security forces and the Tamil guerrillas they were fighting.

A statement from President Ranasinghe Premadasa's office said Monday the probe was ordered following publication last week of a book by a former member of the Israeli intelligence agency.

The book claimed that Mossad agents trained the Tamils to sabotage the Dvora-class patrol boats which Israel had sold to the Sri Lankan navy.

The Mossad also reportedly sent two experts to guide officials in arms procurement by diverting funds from the \$2-billion Mahaweli River project, partially funded by the World Bank and foreign investors.

Israeli agents allegedly taught the officials how to fool World Bank representatives making periodic visits to inspect the project's progress.

Sri Lanka broke off relations with Israel in 1967 following the Arab-Israeli war.

But former President Junius R. Jayewardene credited Israel several years ago with offering help when the government was being threatened by well-armed Tamil separatists.

I am willing to shake hands with Satan himself, if it will help to crush Tamil terrorism," Jayewardene said at the time.

Company denies delivering new type of bomb to Iraq

BONN (AP)

— The Economics Ministry said Monday it was checking a published report that a major West German arms manufacturer delivered a powerful new bomb to Iraq.

MBA also denied that any documents or products had been delivered to Egypt by Consen/PBG, a company that carries out projects for MBB, West German television said Consen was the target of the prosecutors' probe.

"MBB is not involved in production of atomic, biological or chemical weapons," the company statement said.

The firm said it had stopped all dealing with Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2.

MBB confirmed, however, the part of Spiegel's report that said the French company Euromissiles, owned 50 per cent by MBB, delivered guided missiles to Iraq. Spiegel said Euromissiles delivered more than 10,000 Milan, Hot and Roland missiles to Iraq.

The deliveries were made under a state treaty between France and Iraq, MBB said.

The company also denied that it had supplied combat helicopters to Iraq. But it said the Spanish company Casa had won a manufacturing and export licence from MBB for BO 105 helicopters and sold them legally to Iraq.

Iraq lifts restrictions on Bangladesh diplomats

DHAKA (R)

— Iraq Tuesday lifted travel restrictions on Bangladeshi diplomats who fled to Baghdad from Kuwait, a Foreign Office spokesman said.

"Iraqi authorities have agreed to issue exit permits to our Kuwait Ambassador K.M. Shahabuddin Ahmad and four other diplomats stranded in Baghdad since Sept. 11," spokesman Mufazzur Rahman told reporters.

"We hope everything will go smoothly and the diplomats will get back home within a week."

Iraq restricted the movement of the five within Baghdad and refused them permission to leave because Bangladesh did not comply with a directive to close its Kuwait embassy by Aug. 24.

Tamil guerrillas, the report said.

Tamils, claiming discrimination by the Sinhalese-dominated government, launched a separatist campaign in 1983 for a Tamil homeland in the north and east of this Indian Ocean island off India's southern coast. Tamils comprise 18 per cent of the population of 16 million people.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

MISCELLANEOUS

Mis./max. temp. ... Amman ... 13 / 26 ... Aqaba ... 20 / 33 ... Deserts ... 14 / 32 ... Jordan Valley ... 21 / 32

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 44 per cent, Aqaba 50 per cent.

Refugee camps ... 192/1111/637777

Fire Brigades ... 192/1111/637777

Blood Bank ... 775212

Highway Police ... 843402

Traffic Police ... 895290

Public Security Department ... 630521

Hotel Complaints ...

Arar leaves th side for Tripoli

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Saleem Arar left Amman for Tripoli Tuesday saying he was carrying a message from his Majesty King Hussein to Libyan leader Muammar Al Qaddafi.

Arar, who is leading a parliamentary delegation on the visit to Libya, said that the talks with Libyan leaders and parliament members would deal with the general situation in the Middle East and cooperation among Arab parliamentarians, to convene at a meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union, which was called for by the state of Palestine.

"Discussions in Tripoli will deal with the Gulf crisis and the presence of foreign forces in the region," Arar said in his departure statement. During the five-day visit, he added, the delegation's talks with Libyan officials and members would focus on the need to solve the Gulf crisis within an Arab framework, something which Jordan has been calling for.

Accompanying Arar on the Libyan visit are parliament members Abdul Latif Arabyat, Mohammad Alawneh, Fakhri Kawar, Mohammad Al Dardour and Khaled Al Samouri.

EC helps airlift Indians

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Community (EC) has stepped in to help the evacuation of Indians from Iraq and Kuwait through Jordan by signing an agreement with the government of India to airlift 12,200 Indians from Amman to Bombay, officials said.

The EC has chartered Air India aircraft for the purpose, they said. The arrangement started Monday when 871 Indians were flown home aboard Air India flights paid for the EC. Another 10 flights were scheduled to leave Tuesday carrying about 2,500 Indians.

As of Monday, a total of 71,761 Indians were repatriated aboard Air India flights, which started Aug. 14, and another 5,480 were flown home by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), according to the Indian embassy here.

The total number is made up by Indians flying in from Baghdad to take homeward flights aboard Air India on the same day.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

* Open studio and workshop for artist Samsa Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).

* Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajin — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Department of Antiquities' Registration and Research Centre, Jabal Amman.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King receives British delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received members of the visiting British Royal College of Defence Studies. The King briefed them on the situation in the Gulf and on Jordan's efforts to contain the crisis. The audience was attended by the Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb.

King congratulates Yemen

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, congratulating him on the 25th anniversary of the 26th September Revolution Day. The King wished the Yemeni president continued good health and happiness and the Yemeni people further progress and prosperity under his leadership.

Princess Alia visits stamps museum

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein, the honorary president of the Jordanian Stamp Collection Club, Tuesday visited the Jordanian Stamps Museum at the Post and Postal Savings Corporation, where she was received by Transport and Telecommunications Minister Nabil Abu Hada and Director General of the Corporation Abdallah Al Jazi. Princess Alia reviewed all commemorative stamps, totalling 284 collections, issued, since the foundation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Abu Taleb attends graduation

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb Tuesday attended a People's Army graduation ceremony at the University of Jordan. The ceremony was also attended by senior army officers, university professors and students.

Israel steps up arbitrary actions against Palestinians — Qatanani

AMMAN (J.T.) — Israel has stepped up arbitrary actions against the Palestinian population, taking advantage of the fact that the world community's eyes are turned towards the developments in the Gulf area, said Ahmad Qatanani, director of the Department for Palestinian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

Referring to the situation in the Gaza Strip, where scores of people have been detained and homes have been demolished in retaliation for the death of a soldier who had run down two children, Qatanani said that the Israelis were increasing their atrocities to intimidate the local population and force them to leave their homeland to make way for Soviet Jewish immigrants.

"What the Israelis are doing is not strange or surprising since

they have been keeping up such inhuman practices over the past two decades and especially during the ongoing intifada," Qatanani said.

He said that the U.N. Security Council and the international community should intervene and immediately put an end to such atrocities and criminal actions.

Israel had announced it would demolish houses and shops to punish the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip where the soldier was killed. It said it was considering the expulsion of Palestinians suspected of involvement in the killing.

The soldier was killed Thursday in the Bureij refugee camp after his car hit a donkey cart, injuring two Palestinian teenagers. The Palestinian mob stoned him then set fire to his car with his body inside.

Commenting on the situation in the Gaza Strip, Palestine Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim said that the atrocities exposed to the whole world the nature of the Zionist settlers and also exposed the double standards of the United States which "rushed to the Gulf allegedly in implementation of the Security Council resolutions and condones Israel's atrocities in the occupied Arab land."

Israel's actions are in flagrant violation of all principles and international laws, but the United States chooses to ignore this fact and continues to encourage Israel's actions by providing it with the material, political and military means," the ambassador said.

He said the Palestinian people's struggle could never stop until occupation ended.

20 pensioners laid off to cut on expenses

Zarqa municipality has reorganisational plans

ZARQA (J.T.) — A total of 20 workers employed by Zarqa Municipality have been laid off and Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Abdul Karim Al Dughni told the municipality that he supported the action taken in the course of implementing reform programmes and cutting on expenses.

The 20 workers are pensioners and already receive pension from earlier employments, from the municipality they were receiving a total of JD 28,000 in salaries annually, though many of them did little work, according to mayor Yaser Al Omari.

Speaking at a meeting attended by the minister and municipal council members Omari said that the dismissals were made in the course of a comprehensive plan to introduce reform and cut down on extra expenses in implementation of

directives by the government. During the meeting, which discussed the workers' issue, Omari made it clear that among the municipality's employees there are 63 who are above 60 years of age, in violation of regulations.

"Since the election of the municipal council, over four months ago, strenuous efforts have been made to improve the quality of municipal services and reduce expenses," Omari said. "The municipality has a large staff of workers who do little work and are in excess of the municipality's needs," Omari added.

"The decision to lay off workers is in harmony with the government's recent directives which call for employing pensioners in government departments or other public institutions and municipalities," Omari pointed out.

After reviewing the situation with the council, the minister said that the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs supported Zarqa municipality's reorganisational plan aimed at cutting down on expenses so that sufficient funds could be made available for improving the municipal services in the city.

Life-term convict freed by royal pardon

By Mariam M. Shabot
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Jordanian serving three life sentences for a plot against the life of His Majesty King Hussein was released three days ago after a royal pardon was granted by His Majesty King Hussein.

Breit Al Hadid, who was a prominent member of the now banned "Jordanian Revolutionary People's Party," was released Sunday after serving 13 years of his sentence in prison.

Although no official statement was made as to why his release came now, observers believe that the King, who has had a long tradition of pardoning former political foes, was also influenced by the increasingly democratic atmosphere in Jordan as well as attempts by political activists and

Mohammad Abu Issa (who is serving a prison sentence in Syria). The group broke away from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the second largest faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, in 1972.

Hadid, who worked as a school principle in the Gweissneh district in Amman, was one of the leaders of what is considered an extreme left wing-group founded in 1972 by two ardent pan-Arabs, the late Wadi Haddad and

Hadid belongs to one of Jordan's most prominent tribes who have a long history of allegiance to the Hashemite monarchy. The family, who has a representative in the Lower House of Parliament, Nayef Al Hadid, has frequently appealed for amnesty to Breit.

The participants called for

186,029 evacuees airlifted aboard 780 flights since Aug. 18

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of Queen Alia International Airport Ahmad Juweiber Tuesday said that a total of 186,029 evacuees have so far been airlifted aboard 780 non-scheduled flights.

Juweiber said that in addition to the ordinary and non-scheduled flights, which usually carry between 6,000 and 7,000 people every day, the airport also received since Aug. 18 a total of 11 aircraft belonging to different companies, carrying 4,300 tonnes of relief supplies.

Juweiber said that the great pressure on the airport has led to financial losses resulting from the wear and tear of furniture, increased expenditure on water and electricity, extended working hours of the airport cadres, and increasing their numbers.

Juweiber pointed out that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) was working now on an integrated terminal with all facilities. The new 4,000 square metre terminal, located near the airport building, will be used as a reception centre for evacuees waiting to take a flight home, or for those expected to arrive from Iraq and Kuwait. They will be picked up

from the terminal to the planes directly, thus avoiding congestion inside the airport lobbies and corridors.

On Monday a total of 7,494 evacuees left home aboard 35 non-scheduled flights, CAA sources said Tuesday.

In the meantime, some 12,586 evacuees arrived in Jordan Monday through various border points, including 1,838 Jordanians, 5,708 non-Jordanian Arabs and 4,985 foreigners. The total number of those departing the country Monday was 14,248, including 3,061 Jordanians, 5,687 non-Jordanian Arabs and 5,500 foreigners.

The number of evacuees arriving in Jordan through Ruweishid border post totalled 8,001, while

Iraq to study offer of European peace activists

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraq will consider a request by European peace activists who have volunteered themselves to replace sick Western nationals held in Iraq, according to members of a European peace mission which concluded a visit to Baghdad and Amman Tuesday.

Denis Summat, a Maltese member of parliament and head of the mission, told a press conference here that 200 European peace activists have already volunteered to substitute for the sick Europeans held in Iraq.

The idea, however, was opposed by the British members of the mission who demanded an immediate release of all Western nationals.

But Summat said that the idea was supported by the other nine members of the delegation, which included parliamentarians, academics, and trade unionists from Spain, Malta and Italy.

Father Dionysius Mintoff, a prominent Maltese peace activist, said he was ready to replace a sick European national even though there were no Maltese citizens held in Iraq.

The mission members said that they handed an appeal to the speaker of the Iraqi parliament to be conveyed to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Continuing its support for the emergency relief operation in Jordan for evacuees in transit from Kuwait and Iraq, UNICEF flew in Tuesday 42 tonnes of drugs and medical supplies worth \$348,000. The UNICEF special charter will also complete delivery of 5,000 blankets, and 2,000 cooking sets, the bulk of which arrived from Copenhagen four days ago.

Tuesday's shipment, which arrived at Queen Alia International Airport, was handed to the Ex-patriate Relief Committee. In the last few days, UNICEF purchased or placed on order

"We sensed that they left the door slightly open for special cases such as the elderly or sick," said Dennis Canavan, one of three British members of parliament from the opposition Labour Party.

The three British MPs said that they condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait but they had voted against the British government policy in the Gulf.

"The massive military buildup could in fact be counter-productive to the case of peace," said Canavan.

The peace mission members said that despite the Iraqi hardline they still felt that there was chance for peace.

The British deputies said that they saw 100 British nationals held in hotels in Baghdad. They said that some of them were seriously sick and they should be allowed to leave immediately.

The Italian delegates said that the Iraqis had turned down an offer to exchange Italian nationals for food supplies and medicine. They said the Iraqis told them that the decision to keep Western nationals was by far more complicated and serious than such an arrangement.

During their stay in Jordan the peace mission met with Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Moutassim Bilebi and a number of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials representing various groups.

Celebrations to mark Prophet's birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has prepared celebrations for Monday, Sept. 1, 1990, marking Prophet Mohammad's birthday.

According to a statement here, a major religious celebration will be held at the King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein Mosque in Abdali where Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqih as well as the Kingdom's muttahid and other prominent religious leaders will attend the worshippers.

Following the celebration, which will be held under Royal patronage, procession of 400 scouts from the Ministry of Education schools will march along the streets of the capital gathering at Al Hashemieh square where Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Baqi Jammo, who heads a committee in charge of the celebrations, will address them.

Jammo and senior officials from the Ministry of Awqaf held book exhibitions.

Japanese premier to visit on Oct. 3



AMMAN (J.T.) — Japan's Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is due to visit Jordan on Oct. 3 and 4, the first ever by a Japanese prime minister to the Kingdom.

During his stay Kaifu will have talks with His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and other Jordanian officials.

The talks will focus on the present situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations.

The visit will be part of Kaifu's trip to the Middle East which will take him to Egypt, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Oman in addition to Jordan.

Kaifu's visit to the region had been originally planned to take place in the middle of August, but was postponed due to the situation in the Gulf region.

According to a press release from the Japanese Embassy here, the visit is a clear indication of Japan's sincere interest in the well-being of the Middle East region and in its peace and stability.

Kaifu desires to contribute to the quest for peace in this region through personal exchanges with the leaders of each country he plans to visit, the statement said.

Food security.

Several working papers were discussed at the meeting which were organised by the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) in cooperation with the University of Jordan, the Amman Chamber of Industry and the Ministry of Industry and Trade.,

Fund created for industrial development

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day symposium on local industry and Jordan's food security strategy ended here Tuesday with the participants calling for the establishment of a special fund to finance scientific research and development in cooperation between various research centres in Jordan and Iraq.

The meeting, attended by business, industrialists and concerned people from the public and the private sectors, called on Jordan to give more attention to self-dependence in all fields to allow the country to confront the challenges imposed on its industry by the Gulf crisis.

The participants called for coor-

dination between committees,

engaged in the development of Jordanian food processing industry, to study the manufacture of spare parts for industry and agricultural machinery, and to find alternate materials, including herbs, to be used in the pharmaceutical industry.

They also called for coordina-

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Has Saudi Arabia lost its cool?

WHILE Jordan continues its political moves on the Arab and international levels to defuse the Gulf crisis and prevent a military confrontation in the region, the country and its leadership are being taken aback by some "revolutionary" Saudi decisions: Halting oil supplies to the Kingdom and expelling Jordanian diplomats.

Adding insult to injury, our Saudi brothers have come up with ridiculous reasons for their behaviour. They have accused Jordanian diplomats of spying and described a 6-hour notice to cut oil supplies as a "commercial" decision by the Tapline oil company.

Jordanians cannot but be perplexed by these Saudi actions. We have always believed Saudi diplomacy to be reasonable and balanced. But we do not understand why the Saudis are behaving the way they are this time around. For why should Jordan spy on Saudi Arabia and for whom? And why should Jordan be given a 6-hour notice to repay a \$46 million debt, while Jordan had depended on Saudi "generosity" for a long time? We are deeply convinced that these actions are politically motivated and are forced on our Saudi brothers, but not by us nor by our policies. Jordanians feel strongly that the Saudis have lost their will in taking those hostile stands, not only against Jordan but also against other Arab countries that oppose foreign intervention in the Gulf.

Be that as it may, Jordan will not give in and will continue to advocate its beliefs that what is going on in the Arabian peninsula and around it is extremely dangerous, particularly to Saudi interests and the Arab people at large. If unchecked, what is happening in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, namely foreign intervention, is going to lead to the destruction of Arab lands and Arab resources, and to the misery of all Arabs.

Jordanian diplomacy has always striven to keep its balance and to make our positions and beliefs clear. Patience, however, has its limits. Jordan has a lot to say and do to counter allegations and provocations. But Jordan hopes reason will prevail.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

BY cutting off oil supplies to Jordan and by accusing Jordanian diplomats of espionage, the Saudi Arabian government has thus decided to wage war on the Palestinian and Jordanian people, said Al Ra'i daily Tuesday. Had the war been directed at us to serve Saudi Arabian goals, we would have accepted the situation, but to see that such war is being waged on us to serve the Arab nation's enemies' interests, is something which we consider of grave danger, the paper noted. It said that when Saudi Arabia's foreign minister threatened to starve Jordan during a meeting in Cairo, he had thought that the minister had said that in a moment of anger, and when we heard Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the United States insulting Jordan, we thought that the ambassador's inexperience in diplomatic affairs was to blame, the paper said. But, it added, to cut off oil supplies and to accuse Jordanian diplomats of spying is something which is tantamount to a declaration of war, since the oil used to drive our tanks and armoured cars which guard the longest confrontation line with the Israeli enemy and are being deployed to help the Palestinians regain their rights in their homelands. The paper said that the Saudis are wrong to think that such actions can starve the Jordanian people or force them to kneel and succumb to the will of Riyadh or Washington. All provocative actions on the part of Saudi Arabia, said the paper, can only enhance Jordan's steadfastness and can by no means force this country to accept humiliation.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticises the shortcomings of health authorities in the Kingdom specially after dissolution of the National Health Institution (NHI). Nazih says that following the recent decision to cancel NHI, Jordanians expected the return of hospitals to the Health Ministry and the Al Hussein Medical Centre to the military, but the slow process of handing over and the delay in providing medical services due to this process have been causing suffering to the public. The writer says that administrative processes should never be allowed to create obstacles in the path of medical and health departments and hospitals which ought to give their prime attention to the needs of the public. The writer urges the government to intervene and see to it that the process of handing over of administrative duties does not interfere with the process of providing medical service. He says that hospitals have been reported facing difficulties due to administrative changes, reflecting negatively on the public.

Saddam Hussein's announcement that his country was willing to offer the required guarantees for Saudi Arabia's security automatically removed the pretext under which Washington found justification for sending in troops to the Gulf, said Al Dastour daily. The Americans went to the Gulf under the pretext that they want to protect Saudi Arabia from an alleged Iraqi invasion, but it is now revealed that the U.S. forces had been on their way and close to Saudi Arabia before Iraq's take over of Kuwait on Aug. 2, the paper noted. It said that the Americans succeeded, through their various media campaigns and direct approach, in painting Iraq as a monster wishing to swallow up the Saudis; and so they paved the way for their occupation of the Arabian Peninsula. Saddam Hussein's readiness to guarantee the sovereignty of Saudi Arabia, said the paper, should give an impetus to the Saudi government and other states in the Gulf to re-consider their decision of allowing foreign forces on their land.

Econo-Political Forum

American zeal for 242 and guided missiles for 660

In the press conference held by George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev after the Helsinki summit, Bush was asked why the superpowers were not pursuing UN resolutions on the Arab-Israeli dispute. His answer was that the United States had been trying zealously to implement them for many years.

This is exactly the crux of the problem, Mr. President! The irony is that all the US has had for the displaced Palestinian people is some years of zeal, say five, to implement the resolution calling for the pullout of Israeli occupation forces from Palestinian land plus 18 years of complete negligence and forgetfulness (not to men-

tion the 1974 Resolutions, in which case we will be talking about almost half a century of American negligence).

But when Mr. Bush came to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, he could not afford to wait for more than a few minutes to call for the unconditional and immediate withdrawal of the Iraqi forces. And he had much more than zeal this time. A few days later he was sending an armada of American aircraft carriers, bombers, warships, guided missiles and tens of thousands of troops to see to it that resolution 660 be implemented by hook or crook. And the American president is still doing

more of that. The whole world can see what he has been doing to enforce resolution 660 and can easily predict what lengths he is prepared to go in order to get that resolution implemented, not short of massive destructive war, of course. The very simple question put now to Bush-style United States by displaced Palestinian children and jailed youth as well as aging grandmothers who were in their youth in 1948 is: what have you done and what are you going to do, Mr. Bush, to get resolution 242 implemented whether next month, next year, next decade or even next century?

Somebody somewhere should remind Mr. Bush that

he does not need to go to war to prove that US is a superpower or the only superpower, nor to prove that it can defeat, militarily, a Third World country like Iraq. He does not need to go to "war" with Israel to convince Yitzhak Shamir to pull out because the American financial leverage can do the necessary convincing. And here is the ridicule: Mr. Bush wants to go as far as waging war to enforce a UN Security Council resolution (660) but refrains from applying financial pressure to impose another (242), and forget about the alleged zeal. Looks much of a puzzle? Certainly not, because enforcement of resolution 660 wins him votes while that of

resolution 242 costs him some. Plausibly, this is what really matters most in Bush's calculations irrespective of the resounding zeal, rhetoric or international law, not to mention either democracy or dictatorship pretenses.

Right from the very beginning, I maintained in this space that oil was not the real motive which molded the present American policy in the Gulf. The fact that the Americans have paused to ask themselves questions about their objectives in this area lends credence to this viewpoint. Even if that were true at a certain point, the American stand has gone too far beyond that

ostensible goal, and the American game of power politics has created a situation dangerous to their oil interests. The oil price is climbing, is about to hit historical record levels and is showing all signs of being poised to keep on rising whether war erupts or the present deadlock continues. The present and future dangers inherent in this rise to world and regional economies and thereby to world peace and stability are enormous. If Mr. Bush affords now to pay, or arranges to pay, for the present costs of military confrontation and its side effects, the future costs will be so high as to be beyond the paying capacities of the US and its allies.

Jordan, Iraq welcome plan

(Continued from page 1)

plan, which stipulates that the international community and the Arabs should be involved in resolving "other" problems of the region is also welcomed by Jordan, the official said.

"It is the first time that a Western leader has linked the Gulf crisis with other problems of the region," the official noted.

Commenting on the French call for restoring Kuwait's sovereignty and granting democracy to its people, the official reaffirmed the Jordanian position that it supports the "restoration of legitimacy in Kuwait and supports whatever choice the people of Kuwait make."

The official also voiced satisfaction with the fourth stage in the French plan providing for arms reduction in the region from "Iran to Morocco."

"The French proposal calls for the reduction of all weapons of mass destruction, including those possessed by Israel," the official pointed out.

Commenting on the initiative, French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bouchard told the Jordan Times that His Majesty King Hussein and President Mitterrand were following the same approach towards resolving the Gulf crisis. "Both leaders have agreed on holding an international conference that would address all matters and resolve all problems of the Middle East," he said.

The ambassador also said that both leaders agreed that the Gulf crisis should be resolved in an Arab context. "We are for an Arab solution, provided that the Arabs agree with it in the framework of United Nations resolutions," he said.

Bouchard pointed out that King Hussein had stressed the non-admissibility of acquisition of territory by force and that this principle was included in the French proposal.

Both Jordan and France also endorse the call for granting the Kuwaitis the freedom to express their will and choice based on democratic principles, he said.

Iraq says Arab forces can stay

(Continued from page 1)

Egyptian counterpart and two senior diplomats.

Takriti also denied Egyptian newspaper reports that Iraq had sent Soviet-made missiles and warplanes to Sudan and had targeted the missiles on Egypt's strategic Aswan Dam on the River Nile. "It is absolutely not true," he said.

Takriti also denied Egyptian allegations that its nationals in Iraq were being murdered while Iraqi medical documents on the victims showed they had died in accidents.

"I do not know why they are doing that. It will only damage ties between our two peoples," he said. But he added that Baghdad was keen on maintaining diplomatic ties with Cairo.

Egyptian security sources said some 72 bodies had arrived from Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait. Takriti had no estimate of the number.

of Egyptians working in Iraq, but Egyptian officials say close to 1.6 million were there before the invasion.

Egypt, bound to Iraq by a 19-month-old economic alliance, earlier this month reversed its visa regulations, ordering Iraqis and Kuwaitis to acquire entry visas before arriving.

Diplomats said the Egyptians feared Iraqi "saboteurs" might enter the country. The ambassador said Baghdad would not reciprocate and that some 1,300 Egyptians had returned to their jobs in Iraq this month.

Egyptian officials say more than 300,000 Egyptians have returned home from both Iraq and Kuwait in the past seven weeks. The Egyptian labour union has urged all Egyptian labourers to leave Iraq telling them not to worry since they are likely to replace Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates in the Gulf.

Assad fails to get pledge

(Continued from page 1)

The presidents made no reference to the question of Western hostages in Lebanon. A pro-Iranian leader there said last week the British hostages among the 12 missing Westerners would be released soon.

"You should know that our view on the Persian Gulf crisis fully corresponds with Syria's," Rafsanjani told a joint airport news conference.

He added that he and Assad had agreed on a common-course of action for various outcomes of the crisis.

"Whether the situation in the region remains the same, or Iraq is devastated, or the anti-Iraq front is weakened, or war breaks out or Israel intervenes — we have common positions on what to do in each case," he said.

In response to a question, Rafsanjani denied press reports that Assad had carried a message from the United States for the Iranian leadership.

"The Americans are not so brazen as giving His Excellency a message for us," he said.

The United States had made clear before the visit it was looking to Assad to persuade the Iranians to uphold the U.N. trade embargo and stay away from any sanctions-busting deal with Baghdad.

But Assad said he had fully briefed Rafsanjani on his talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in

Damascus 11 days ago.

Iran Monday announced the arrest of 29 people for trying to smuggle food to Iraq, its first report of a concrete measure to enforce the blockade against Baghdad.

A well-informed source in Tehran said that Tehran had agreed to buy some 200,000 barrels of refined Iraqi oil. The United States and its allies were also alarmed at reports from Washington that Baghdad had asked Tehran to link its pipelines to Iraq's and help it circumvent the sanctions.

But the sources close to the Syrians said Tehran would not consider a plan to link the pipelines, and that Rafsanjani had promised Assad he would not buy Iraq's embargoed crude.

Addressing the United Nations, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati Monday condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait but also said the long-term presence of foreign forces in the Gulf would be detrimental to the region's security.

Velayati said Iran from the very outset had condemned Iraqi aggression and demanded an immediate, total and unconditional withdrawal.

But the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait had regrettably provided a pretext for foreign powers, particularly the United States and Western countries, to dispatch their forces on a large scale to the Gulf, he said.

Shevardnadze: Use last resort

(Continued from page 1)

also of plain common sense, to take a responsible and humane attitude, above all vis-a-vis the Iraqi people, who surely yearn for peace, tranquility and good relations with their neighbours.

Shevardnadze hoped Arab states would "live up to the expectations of mankind" and help find a way out of the Gulf crisis.

This would make it possible to deal with other conflicts in the Middle East and to find an equitable solution to the Palestinian problem, he said.

As three weeks of U.N. General Assembly speeches began Monday, leaders from France, Brazil, Argentina

and Poland, and Indonesia condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and clamoured for withdrawal of Iraqi troops.

Calling Iraq a "warlike state," French President Francois Mitterrand told the 160-nation assembly that the international community would not retreat from its demand that Iraq leave Kuwait. The French leader also outlined a four-stage plan for peace in the Middle East.

Shevardnadze, commenting on Iraq's warnings, said Monday statements about possible attacks in the Gulf and the Middle East were inadmissible.

"Any attacks would unleash a war and that would mean disaster," he said in reply to reporters' questions.

Does this mean violence pays?

By William MacLean
Reuter

opposition to a meeting with Inkatha to revive faltering negotiations with the white government on political reform.

"Mandela had no choice because of the talks. It was the lesser of two evils," said analyst Gary Van Staaden of Witwatersrand University's Institute of International Affairs.

The ANC's negotiations with Pretoria on ending 300 years of white domination have been jeopardised by the township violence in which more than 760 people have died.

Van Staaden said the ANC's plan for joint talks on the violence with the leaders, including Buthelezi, of South Africa's ten tribal homelands "was one of the last things the ANC wants to do."

"But it was a necessary and courageous step," he added.

Recalling an earlier era of friendship between the ANC and Inkatha, Mandela swallowed his pride on Friday and called Buthelezi "my old friend."

Chief Buthelezi has been one of those men who have fought for my release and the release of

other comrades," he recalled.

"I have made efforts for a meeting not only between the two of us but also between the organisations to bring them closer to each other," Mandela told Britain's Channel Four television.

Mandela has resisted a one-to-one meeting with Buthelezi, something the Inkatha leader has often demanded.

The ANC accuses Buthelezi of collaborating with Pretoria and white-owned big business on a range of issues and of trying to shoot his way into the ANC negotiations with President F.W. De Klerk.

Mandela had a taste of township hostility to Inkatha on Thursday when he attended a Soweto funeral for victims of the fighting. Thirty thousand mourners greeted him with the roar: "Father Mandela... Inkatha is murdering us in Soweto."

The political editor of the Johannesburg Star, Johan Patten, said Mandela, 72, did not have time on his side in his negotiations with De Klerk.

There was no indication of whether Buthelezi would accept the apparent thawing of ANC hostility towards Buthelezi.

"Inkatha set out on a deliberate course of violence to get someone's (Mandela's) attention and that campaign has worked," he said. "It was disturbing implication for the future conduct of South African politics. Does this mean violence pays?"

The turbulence is the basis for a large army presence in the region.

But Somalis accuse the army of abuses.

"The people in the bush have been killed and maimed. You see whole convoys of armed soldiers heading into the bush and yet there is no war," said an elderly Somali who, like others interviewed in Mandera, refused to be named.

Somalis tell of an incident in 1984 when a skirmish between fending ethnic Somali tribes in the town of Wajir let to the army rounding up and confining hundreds of Somali men on an air-strip for days without

Features

EMBER 24
Abdalla

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War refugees find peace at church in Sri Lankan jungle

By Feizal Samath
Reuter

MADHU CHURCH, Sri Lanka — Suppiah, scrawling in a book while other children play around him in this small jungle outpost, is too young to know why he is far from home.

Fearing for the four-year-old boy's safety, his parents came here to find refuge from the war between Sri Lankan security forces and Tamil guerrillas fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east of the country.

More than 11,000 people have sought shelter in this outpost in the north, 240 kilometres from the capital, Colombo. A church and a few buildings are the only signs of civilization.

Clare Mangaleswaran, 33, reached the camp with her two children after a 160-kilometre walk, boat and tractor ride through jungle from the Tamil stronghold, Jaffna, further north.

She travelled mostly at night to avoid air force planes.

"It was horrible. We ran to the nearest church when Sri Lankan planes started bombing our hometown. I saw a house being reduced to rubble when a bomb fell on it," the former teacher said.

Her two children aged 18 months and three-and-a-half years still vomit with fear when they hear loud sounds. "They have been like this since the bombing," said Mangaleswaran, who lost her mother in a helicopter attack.

She is one of the few living in a walled house here. Thousands of others spend their days in two-metre by 1.5-metre thatched huts.

An abandoned bus has been converted to a temporary home by a family of four.

Surrounded by thick jungle, Madhu Church has been a place of worship for Roman Catholics since a shrine was first established by foreign missionaries more than three centuries ago.

The church's annual nine-day festival in July and August is usually attended by 400,000 people from across Sri Lanka.

But since 1983, when Tamil guerrillas started fighting for a separate Tamil minority state, the crowds have dwindled. Only 2,000 local people attended the last feast.

But refugees, drawn by the serenity of the churchyard with its sheltering flamboyant trees, have made Madhu the biggest camp in

the north for Sri Lankans displaced by the war.

"It looks peaceful. That is why we are here," said Allahu Amman, 38, a housewife from Trincomalee. She and 60 others trekked 120 kilometres through jungle from the east coast of the camp.

Whene the church bell rings in the morning, hundreds of children carrying books and chairs scurry across the camp. School has begun under the trees with refugee teachers holding classes.

The pastor, Father Phillipius Jesurajah, said refugees chose Madhu Church because it was only a few kilometres from Mannar on the northwest coast where thousands of people board boats for India to escape the war.

At least 100,000 refugees have fled to south India from Mannar since June.

There are no newspapers, no mail or electricity here.

Residents listen eagerly to the radio or chat with drivers who arrive in food lorries on the only possible dirt road, pock-marked with holes drilled by monsoon rains.

The trip to Madhu from Vavuniya, 64 kilometres to the east, can be dangerous.

In rebel country, the air force shoots at anything that moves. Travellers are often forced to abandon their vehicles and dive for cover if military aircraft approach.

On the ground, rebel patrols stop and interrogate those attempting the journey over the rutted road.

Recently, a Reuter correspondent attempting the trip was stopped by a group of 13- and 14-year-old rebels who demanded his press accreditation and wanted to know whether there were any Sinhalese (the majority community) in the car.

The rebels have killed hundreds of non-Tamil civilians in village attacks to force other ethnic and religious groups to leave northern and eastern settlements. Journalists have not been attacked.

Food and medicines are in short supply at Madhu Church. Father Jesurajah said most of the food was brought in by foreign relief agencies since the rebels would not allow government lorries into the area.

"The food is short because the number of refugees are increasing daily," he said.

A local doctor said 15 babies were born in the camp. "They are doing well, despite the conditions in which they were born," he said.

Kuwaiti money safe and intact in West

By Clare Pedrick

NEW YORK — As more reports filter through of the havoc being wrought in Kuwait as a result of the Iraqi takeover, Kuwaitis themselves may find some small solace in the thought that their government is likely to remain one of the world's wealthiest in spite of the Iraqi takeover. It's foreign workers and private citizens who are being hit hardest.

Economists monitoring the situation from outside the Gulf state say that while personal fortunes may collapse overnight, a combination of far-sighted financial management and fortuitous circumstances will almost certainly save this rich nation from the ruin that generally faces countries plunged into full-scale war.

The bulk of Kuwait's petrodollar fortune was invested abroad, out of the reach of Iraq, say economists. Both government and private companies have extensive interests in Europe and the U.S., and although the Kuwaiti economy is petroleum-based, the country's financial brains have long spread their net far and wide to include activities ranging from automobiles to real estate.

"Kuwait was the best, most diversified and most aggressive investor of all the Arab exporting nations and it had an excellent portfolio," said Ibrahim M. Oweiss, an Egyptian-born professor of economics at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and a specialist in energy and oil.

"It was this variety of investment, for example, which prevented the drop in oil prices of 1986 from having too great an effect on Kuwait. The majority of Kuwait's investments are abroad."

Said Al Sallal: "The Kuwaiti government has access to these overseas assets which are all intact. We are using them to help mount resistance to Iraq and to

cover the expense of maintaining a government in exile." Kuwait is reported to be making a significant contribution to the cost of deploying U.S., Egyptian and other forces in Saudi Arabia, currently estimated at \$25 million per day. It is also believed to have provided help to Egypt to cover the cost of repatriating tens of thousands of Egyptians fleeing Iraq and Kuwait and is understood to have made offers of compensation to countries such as Turkey which will lose substantial revenues from the oil pipeline which crosses from the Gulf to the Black Sea.

In its handling of its petroleum, Kuwait has shown itself to be similarly enlightened. Unlike most producers, Kuwait runs what is known in the trade as "downstream operation." As well as pumping it out of the ground the Kuwaitis refine, export and distribute their oil to their overseas customers, selling it at the pumps through a network of gas stations.

Managed by the London-based Kuwait Petroleum International PLC (KPI), the government-owned holding company, the country's downstream outfit is based in the U.S. — the Santa Fe Investment Corporation — and in Europe, where it trades under the name of OSE. The European operation is by far the bigger of the two, with 6,500 service stations in countries throughout the Western continent. The OSE network began life in 1983 when Kuwait purchased most of the Gulf Oil Corporation's operations in Western Europe. Since then, KPI has made a string of acquisitions, including many of the Mobil Oil Corporation's operations in Italy. It sells more than 400,000 barrels of petroleum products a day in Europe.

"Even so, that means we have lost 50 per cent of our assets, or at least until something happens politically," said bank spokesman

Nick Arens. "We understand a lot of looting went on, but we still haven't been able to make contact. We just don't know what we have left, whether walls and buildings have been knocked down. There is no precedent of how to handle a situation like this."

According to reports gleaned from Kuwaitis and foreigners who have fled the country, the damage to the infrastructure is considerable. At the Kuwait Mission to the U.N. in New York Mohammad Saad Al Sallal said tanks and bombs appear to have taken their toll on roads and buildings. Nevertheless, if out-right war is averted, the trail of destruction could be put right quickly, say economists.

Said Henry Schuler, director of the energy research programme at Washington's Centre for Strategic and International Studies: "Unless the Iraqis blow up the oil-fields or have a scorched earth policy, or start cannibalising equipment I would not think there would be very much effect on the country's economy." If Iraq were to blow up the oil-fields, experts predict it would take between six and eight months to get them back in operation.

In the Kuwaiti capital, foreign exchange, mainly dollars, pounds and Swiss francs, has been looted from the banks. There have also been reports of as much as \$3 billion worth of gold taken from banks and stores, though some economists believe the real figure to be much lower. "I am inclined to treat that figure with some scepticism," said Prof. Richard Cooper, professor of economics at Harvard University. "It would be unusual to have so much gold in the country. Most countries

store it in the basement of the Federal Reserve in New York or in London where gold is traded."

The greatest hardships will undoubtedly be suffered at the individual levels. The Kuwaiti dinar, valued at U.S. \$3.50 prior to the takeover, is now worthless. Thousands of people, and especially foreign guest workers who had made Kuwait their home, have seen their savings wiped out at a single stroke.

For the Kuwaitis themselves, the past few weeks have meant adjusting to levels of deprivation that would have been unthinkable little more than a month ago. "At the moment, our information is that most people are staying locked inside their homes," said Al Sallal, who estimates the number of Kuwaitis trapped by the takeover at about 650,000. "You can't imagine what a shock it has been for these people, both psychologically and materially."

Said Prof. Oweiss: "This country had an extremely high per capita income and the people were very well looked after by the government. There was tremendous wealth in terms of lifestyle and buildings. Almost everyone had a swimming pool. There was free health care and education. Students were even given money to study abroad. All that has crumbled overnight. Under the present circumstances, people are just trying to survive."

Reports indicate some Kuwaitis are still resisting. "There have been some attacks and suicide car bombs," said Al Sallal. "Of course, there is no comparison between this kind of resistance and the Iraqi army of 250,000. It is more symbolic than anything else" — World News Link.

Birds flee Western presence in the Arabian Peninsula

By Meredith Campbell
The Associated Press

MUSCAT, Oman — Winging their way alongside the international airways, dawn patrols policing the gulf are majestic species of birds whose ancestral flightpaths are now increasingly endangered by the swelling sky traffic.

This is the season when millions of large and small birds fly sedately by night through Gulf airspace, navigating by the stars to winter in Africa where the food and climate suit them.

Covering thousands of kilometres from Eastern Europe,

they already face innumerable other hazards including accidents, strong headwinds and lack of food and water. Middle East-based ornithologists say.

Some species, such as the white stork, fly by day and by nature endeavour to dodge the military might around them, according to Michael Gallagher, curator of the Oman Natural History Museum and author of the textbook reference "Birds of Oman."

Known as the Ciconia Ciconia, they are heavy birds, coloured mostly white except for black on their wings, large red beaks and long red legs, and weigh around 3.5 kilogrammes.

They have a broad wingspan of more than one metre helping to lift them up in the columns of hot air rising from the sizzling ground below.

Circling effortlessly over the desert, they can travel long distances until the thermals die out or they spot rare green pastures. They then descend and search for grasshoppers, beetles and other small creatures, an invasion welcomed by arid land tribal farmers.

"The white stork breeds in fewer numbers nowadays," Gallagher says. "We in the Gulf can at least both welcome and safeguard them."

In addition to risks in the clouds, birds feeding on the ground have to fend off for attacks and death at the hands of

ignorant hunters, says Gallagher. The risk of poisoning is also greater, he says.

"It feels like our responsibility to wish them well on their journey," Gallagher says. "I have appealed for reports of dead birds discovered with rings on their legs, and any other information about where they were found, in order that their origin can be established."

Following the recovery of ringed birds from 1912 onwards, Oman has been confirmed as the autumnal line of migration for the white stork.

The Sultanate occupies the southeastern part of the Arabian

Peninsula and curves southwest from its guardianship of the Strait of Hormuz with Iran to the border with Yemen, a coastal distance of 1,700 kilometre.

In the Arabian states of the Gulf, the white stork is very scarce and usually seen only in small numbers, Gallagher said.

Larger numbers occur infrequently such as the 65-70 reported flying north over Kuwait in April, 1967. Among later records, an estimated 300 landed at Abu Dhabi airport in September 1984. A further nine were spotted in Bahrain in August, 1984. This was the recorded sighting of the bird for the island.

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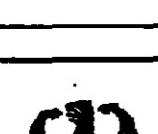
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BEKENNTNACHUNG

für Deutsche zur Wahl zum Deutschen Bundestag

Am 02. Dezember 1990 findet die Wahl zum Deutschen Bundestag statt.

Deutsche, die ausserhalb der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik, einschliesslich Berlin (Gebietbereich des Bundeswahlgesetzes), leben und hier keine Wohnung mehr innehaben, können bei Vorliegen der sonstigen wahlrechtlichen Voraussetzungen an der Wahl teilnehmen.

Für Ihre Wahlteilnahme ist u.a. Voraussetzung, dass sie:

1. nach dem 23. Mai 1949 und vor ihrem Fortzug aus dem Gebietbereich des Bundeswahlgesetzes mindestens drei Monate ununterbrochen im Gebietbereich des Bundeswahlgesetzes gewohnt oder sich dort sonst gewöhnlich aufgehalten haben;

2. a) in den Gebieten der uebrigen Mitgliedstaaten des Europarat leben oder
b) in anderen Gebieten leben und am Wahltage seit ihrem Fortzug aus dem Gebietbereich des Bundeswahlgesetzes nicht mehr als zehn Jahre verstrichen sind;

3. in ein Wahlverzeichnis im Gebietbereich des Bundeswahlgesetzes eingetragen sind. Diese Eintragung erfolgt nur auf Antrag. Der Antrag ist auf einem Formblatt zu stellen. Er soll bald nach dieser Bekanntmachung abgesandt werden. Einem Antrag, der erst am 12. November 1990 oder später bei der zuständigen Gemeindebehörde eingetragen, kann nicht mehr entsprochen werden (§ 18 Abs. 1 der Bundeswahlordnung).

Antragsverdruck (Formblatt) sowie informierende Merkblätter können von den diplomatischen und konsularischen Vertretungen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, vom Bundeswahlleiter, Postfach 55 28, D-6200 Wiesbaden 1, von den Kreiswahlleitern im Gebietbereich des Bundeswahlgesetzes angefordert werden.

Weitere Auskünfte erteilt die B

Chinese folk hero scores perfect 10 in gymnastics, leads medals sweep

PEKING (R) — A crew-cut folk hero from China scored a perfect 10 on the horizontal bar Tuesday to establish himself as Asia's best all-round gymnast and lead a Chinese medals sweep.

The crowd chanted "Li Jing is the greatest" as he claimed the Asian Games individual gold medal with a near flawless performance in the six disciplines.

Li scored 59.150 points, while Guo Linyue took the silver with 58.8 and Li Xiao-Shuang edged out Japan's Daisuke Nishikawa at the final apparatus 58.350 to 58.3.

Li, who helped a new generation of Chinese gymnasts retain the team title Sunday, signalled his own gold medal intentions by executing a spectacular vault over the horse, his second routine.

He maintained the form of a world champion on the parallel bars. Li then set his sights on the all-round title, in which he finished third at the 1989 World Championships.

A born showman who first competed in Human provinces at the age of six, Li actually broke off his routine at one point Tuesday to acknowledge the cheers of his teenage girl fans. It didn't seem to affect his concentration.

His next discipline was the horizontal bar. Here his breathtaking display of spins and reverses kept the spectators so tense that the climax brought an audible sigh of relief.

Li's perfect 10, third in the

Peking games after the scores of compatriots Fan Di and Chen Cutting in Monday's women's team event, put his own victory beyond doubt as far as the crowd was concerned.

There was also little doubt in the spectators' minds that Li, instrumental in helping China prolong an unbeaten run in the event since 1978, had now emerged as a worthy successor to Li Ning, the legendary winner of four golds at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

"I felt a little tense and willed myself to become calm," he said afterwards. I know that at the world level I must improve my floor exercises."

By the halfway stage of Tuesday's competition, Guo had also pulled away from the rest of the field, leaving only Li Xiaoshuang and Nishikawa to provide a measure of excitement in battling for the horse, his second routine.

The Chinese gymnast slipped on the parallel bar, and had to fight it out with Nishikawa until the floor exercise when he turned in an unbeatable performance.

Li Xiaoshuang punched the air after his routine and the crowd erupted in joy even before the judges confirmed their judgement that China had indeed completed the clean sweep.

Marksman inspires China
Meanwhile Marksman Xu Haifeng, China's first ever gold

medal winner and lighter of the Asian Games flame, fired his team on to take four out of six gold medals on the opening day of competition Tuesday.

"Today was quite normal, but not my best," said Xu, 33, as stony-faced at the post-match news conference as he was on the shooting range.

Xu shot six perfect 10-point bullseyes in a row in the finals of the individual free pistol event, matching the Asian record of 660 he set at the Seoul Asian Games in 1986.

ASIAN GAMES

A national hero since winning China's first ever Olympic gold medal in Los Angeles in 1984, Xu has a chance six golds in the Peking games. "Of course I want them all, but it's impossible to win them all," he said.

Shooting is not normally a big spectator sport but Chinese fans packed the Peking range cheering Xu's bid for the gold.

Japanese shooters spoke Xu's name with reverence. "He's very good, very good," they said, shaking their heads.

In Tuesday's other shooting events, Japan and South Korea picked up one gold apiece in the air rifle 60-shot team and individual competitions. China's women's team took the gold in the sport pistol 2x30 and swept all

medals in the individual event. The Chinese women's team, led by People's Liberation Army soldier Li Duihong, scored 1757. The silver went to South Korea (1729) and the bronze to North Korea (1726).

In the men's air rifle, Japan took the team gold with 1752. South Korean sharpshooter Ahn Byung-Kyun won the gold in the individual competition, forcing the Japanese into second place with his last shot.

"We expected to win the gold in the team event but we lost. We were depressed and shocked," said Ahn. "So I went out and hoped, and did my best."

China's men, led into the final by Xu's performance in the qualifying round, took the gold in the free pistol 60-shot team competition with 1643, followed by North Korea with 1643.

China swept the individual free pistol 60-shot event. Xu took the gold, Li Jinbao the silver and Wang Yifei the bronze.

Table tennis

China and South Korea, two of the biggest names in world table tennis, Tuesday cruised into the last eight of both men's and women's events at the Asian Games.

A full-strength Chinese men's team, silver medallists at the 1989 World Championships, steamrolled Pakistan without dropping a

set.

The South Koreans, meanwhile, looked equally convincing as they bundled aside Macau to continue their defence of the Asian Games title won on home ground four years ago.

They were spearheaded by Yoo Nam-Kyun, men's singles gold medallist both at those games and at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Both Chinese and South Koreans ended their group matches with perfect 3-0 records. They are joined in the quarter-finals by Japan, North Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Pakistan and Macau.

In the women's events, China, South Korea, North Korea and Hong Kong all won group matches Tuesday to move predictably into the last eight.

Highlights were the host nation's whitewash of the Malaysians, and North Korea's emphatic win over the long dominant Japanese women.

Pyongyang's Asian Cup winner Yu Sun-Bok trailed by one set but rallied to defeat Mika Hoshoi 18-21, 21-15, 21-14. Later she teamed with World Championship singles silver medallist Li Bun-Hui to outplay Hosino and Miki Kitaoka in the doubles.

Despite their defeat, the Japanese women went through to the quarter-finals along with Macau, Malaysia and Taiwan.

Asians seek more affordable Olympics

PEKING (AP) — Asian sports leaders have called for action to help developing nations afford to play host to the Olympics.

Other speakers at a seminar of the Olympics said money has become too big a factor in the games.

"There are signs that the financial cost of Olympism is rising at a rate which may put the staging of the Olympic Games beyond the reach of most cities, especially Asian cities," said Chey Man-Lip, vice president of South Korea's National Olympic Committee.

The South Korean capital of Seoul was host to the 1988 Olympics.

Choy and other speakers expressed concern that future Olympics would become a monopoly of rich countries. They urged that the International Olympic Committee help nations less able to afford the games.

"There was a consensus among participants that something must be done to reduce the financial involvement of future Olympic so that developing countries also can host them," said Kim Sung-Youn, president of the General Association of the Asian Sports Federation.

His federation sponsored the seminar, which attracted about 70 Asian sports leaders in Peking for the Asian Games, an Olympic-style competition among more than 4,000 athletes from 37 nations. The 16-day games opened last Saturday.

Choy noted that Atlanta, chosen as host for the 1996 Olympics, has announced it would have to spend at least \$1.2 billion to stage the games, although the city already has most of the required facilities.

He proposed that future Olympic host cities be chosen on a rotating basis among continents to avoid excessive competition and reduced costs.

Michels, back at the helm for the third time, has added uncapped Ajax Amsterdam striker Dennis Bergkamp to his squad after Ajax Captain John van T Schip

laid off with an ear infection.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Make sure that you hold steady to prove principles while searching for new ways to express your true nature. Ingenious arrangements that have assisted your interests in the past will work for you now...

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your work activities provide you with the best means by which you can be thinking about how you can improve your financial situation.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A heavy mood can strike you especially if someone has let you down and your best wise course today is to maintain and keep a lighter tone.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Put yourself in closer touch with members of your household and let them advise you when a need for patience and self-control now comes up.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get into every source where there is information you can utilize in your everyday affairs and don't be off on any tangent that appeals.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are very much concerned with some details of your financial status and need to study how the public handles such a situation.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) You need an entirely new start on how you can extend your pre-

sent interests into new horizons and don't have it be purely a worldly attitude.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) Private conversations with an expert can bring you the answers for which you have been searching so seek them and don't waste time over non-productive jobs.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) Discriminating friends and outsiders of experience will help your flow towards prosperity now, but a frivolous person can consume too much of your time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is a day when an advanced awareness of how to do your daily activities brings you more acclaim but don't get in a huddle at your residence.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 21) You are inspired to some new interests today which should be looked into while at the same time sidestep associating with a vacillating acquaintance.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Look for the various members of your family who have good judgement and get their suggestions for your advancement but avoid a carpenter pal.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Most everyone has better ideas than you have today so listen to their viewpoints and follow them as closely as you can; don't argue with a self-righteous associate.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARPS 24



"Our interior decorator says I have to divorce you or paint you surf blue."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

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Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's

Jumble:

WHOOP LISLE SMUDGE ABSURD

Answer:

When money talks, a greedy person doesn't --- MISS A WORD

(Answers tomorrow)

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Economy

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1990 7

Gold soars above \$400

LONDON (R) — Gold prices surged in London Tuesday, rising above \$400 an ounce for the first time in almost a month following strong U.S. demand Monday, bullion dealers said.

Spot oil prices also retained Monday's strong gains in European trading. Higher oil prices as a result of increased tension in the Gulf have pushed down stock markets around the world in recent days amid low turnover and share prices in Europe generally reflected this downturn Tuesday.

Spot gold traded in London at \$405.50 an ounce, up from the previous close of \$397.65, itself a

Traders said most of gold's advance was achieved in the U.S. futures market Monday, with prices largely consolidating in Asian trading Tuesday morning.

"The (bullion) market followed crude oil up, while the dollar was down," one trader in London said.

Turkey's Gulf losses may reach \$10b by end of 1991

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey's losses from the Gulf crisis might rise to \$10 billion by the end of 1991, a senior treasury official said Monday.

"The burden of the crisis on the economy will be \$3.4 billion in 1990... if the crisis continues in 1991 it will bring an additional loss of \$6.5 billion," Ibrahim Cakir, deputy treasury under-secretary, told a business secretary, told a business

billion next year if war erupts in the Gulf, he said. Cancellations of hotel rooms on fears of war have already cost about \$50 million in lost tourism revenue.

Cakir said Turkey had lost \$500 million in both the transportation and construction sectors from lost business in Iraq and Middle Eastern countries this year alone.

Baghdad owes Turkey \$750 million in trade debts, non-recoverable after it seized foreign assets in Iraq last week.

He said Turkey's oil bill, \$2.46 billion in 1989, would rise by \$2 billion next year after an increase of about \$700 million in 1990.

Cakir said Turkey would lose \$150 million in fees from August to the end of this year after shutting Iraq's oil export pipelines across its territory, and a further \$320 million in 1991 if the embargo continues.

The tourism sector will lose \$1 billion in 1990, up from the previous close of \$397.65, itself a

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"The (bullion) market fol-

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dollar was down," one trader in

London said.

Algerians protest reform plans

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian workers and civil servants have attacked government plans for a market economy by 1991, saying millions would lose jobs and prices would skyrocket.

The main trade union UGTA (Union Generale des Travailleurs Algériens) accused the government of trying to dismantle the public sector set up under socialist rule in the 1960s and 1970s.

"The situation is deteriorating at a rhythm never before equalled, and the only victims remain workers and their families," it

said in a statement in El Moudjahid daily Tuesday, referring to 25 per cent unemployment and double-digit inflation.

Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche last week gave state firms three months to become autonomous profit centres in line with liberal economic reforms launched in the mid-1980s.

Hamrouche says he is only trying to strengthen the state sector, but the UGTA and old guard leaders of the ruling National Liberation Front fear his ultimate

aim is to sell off money-losing public assets.

The government also proposes to end subsidies on basic goods, worth 17 billion dinars (\$1.9 billion) this year, in favour of direct aid to citizens most in need.

"The UGTA expresses its great concern over a veritable and clearly announced strategy aimed... at destroying and privatising the public sector and disengaging the state from supporting the prices of basic products," the statement said.

The shortfall between government revenue and spending already was nearly 60 per cent higher than the deficit for the full 1989 fiscal year of \$152 billion.

Partly because of a special factor, the deficit for August shot up to \$52.75 billion from \$25.93 billion in July and was more than double the \$22.15 billion shortfall in August 1989.

The Treasury Department said about \$25 billion of the August deficit occurred because the government shifted some payments it normally makes in September back to August.

The previous record for a full-year deficit was set in fiscal 1986, when the total of government red ink was \$221.1 billion.

At the end of August, one month before fiscal 1990 ends,

U.S. budget gap swells to \$242b

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. budget deficit swelled to \$241.7 billion in the first 11 months of the current financial year, surpassing the previous record for a complete year set in 1986, the Treasury Department said Monday.

At the end of August, one month before fiscal 1990 ends,

the shortfall between government revenue and spending already was nearly 60 per cent higher than the deficit for the full 1989 fiscal year of \$152 billion.

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S. Africa imposes curfew on 7 townships; blacks vow defiance

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Millions of South African blacks in seven Johannesburg townships will be confined to their homes after dark Tuesday by a government curfew imposed to quell weeks of bloody factional violence.

But black groups linked to Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) said they would defy the dusk-to-dawn curfew, the most sweeping measure of a 10-day-old security clampdown on township unrest codenamed "operation iron fist."

The threat of renewed unrest came as President F.W. de Klerk appeared to be making progress in his battle to have international sanctions lifted from South Africa.

De Klerk, on a visit to Washington, won praise from President George Bush for his courage in turning away from apartheid. After two hours of talks with de Klerk at the White House, Bush said the process of change in South Africa was now irreversible.

In the Johannesburg townships, a relative lull has descended since the police and army implemented "operation iron

fire," although police Tuesday reported several violent incidents.

A spokesman said seven blacks were hacked to death and thrown from a speeding commuter train between Johannesburg and Soweto Monday evening, the latest in a series of apparently random attacks on train passengers.

In four separate incidents during the past 24 hours, three more blacks were shot dead, one by a police patrol, and another was hacked to death, the spokesman said.

The government says the curfew and other measures are necessary to end the carnage, rooted in bitter rivalry between the ANC and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, which has claimed more than 770 lives since mid-August.

But the ANC-aligned South African Youth Congress (SAYCO) directly challenged the government, calling on its members to defy the curfew and "continue their organisational tasks and elevate our struggle to a higher level."

"The curfew is not intended to address the violence but to clamp

down on the mass democratic movement and the ANC," SAYCO said in a statement.

De Klerk's white government announced details of the indefinite curfew last Friday, banning movement between 9.00 p.m. and 4.00 a.m. in black areas including the massive Soweto township, home for more than two million blacks.

The government does want to negotiate with a weak ANC and their failure to suppress the violence and to track down the people who are responsible suggests that they are implicated — they are complicit at it," Mandela said.

Police said those violating the curfew would be held responsible for their own actions. "They would have to bear the consequences," a spokeswoman said.

But the Congress of South African Trade Unions, South Africa's biggest labour organisation, said the curfew would leave innocent township residents unprotected from vigilantes and agents of darkness.

Mandela said he believed de Klerk was committed to a peaceful solution to the country's problems. "But I do not exonerate Mr. de Klerk from wanting to negotiate with a weak ANC," he added.

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Bhutto gains political ground as opponents launch campaign

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A coalition of widely varying political groups launched a campaign Tuesday against ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, hoping to stick together long enough to defeat her in next month's election.

The group, known as the Islamic Democratic Alliance, has cut deals with smaller parties spanning the range of the ideological spectrum — from Islamic fundamentalism to secular socialism.

"It's a mess," said Ijaz Ul-Haq, campaign manager for the alliance and son of the late Gen. Mohammad Zia Ul-Haq, who ruled Pakistan for 11 years until his death in a shadowy 1988 plane



Benazir Bhutto

crash at the polls evaporated when bitter internal feuding began to dominate the pages of Pakistan's English and Urdu-language newspapers.

New cracks in the alliance surface daily.

The latest tremor threatening to destroy the coalition involves an Indian immigrant party that dominates two of Pakistan's largest cities in Ms. Bhutto's home province of Sindhu.

News reports said Tuesday the Refugee People's Movement, representing Indians who migrated to Pakistan after the 1947 partition of the subcontinent, is drifting away from the alliance.

The movement accused the Bhutto party of pulling out of the alliance of ignoring its demands for the release of party workers jailed during Bhutto's tenure, among other things.

The movement once aligned itself with Bhutto but joined her opponents last November claiming she reneged on promises.

Last week, a meeting of the alliance degenerated into fist-fights, and gunfire.

There also is a growing belief that Bhutto has become the victim of a witch hunt under a thinly veiled guise of special tribunals set up by the caretaker government to try corruption cases

against her former government. The tribunals are seen as blatantly one-sided.

Analysts say Ishaq Khan and his hand-picked caretaker government have sacrificed credibility in their rush to discredit Bhutto.

Earlier this week, the 37-year-old former premier was ordered to stand trial on charges of corruption and misconduct. If found guilty, Bhutto could be disqualified from politics for up to seven years.

Even the army, which ruled Pakistan for a quarter century and still wields enormous influence, has lost patience with the lopsided probes into political corruption in Pakistan.

"There should be more broad-based accountability. This is not the right thing," said one military source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Despite the warnings from Western countries that crucial economic and military aid is at stake, the caretaker government seems undeterred.

"She claims to be the symbol of democracy and the federation," said Rafi Raza, a minister in the caretaker cabinet. "In reality she is neither. She is no modern Joan of Arc, but more like Alice in Wonderland."

While few analysts expect Bhutto's party to pull off a major win at the polls, the resounding defeat her opponents expected to hand her also seems unlikely.

Ijaz predicted a win for his alliance, but added it's unlikely to survive more than six months because of the wide-ranging political philosophies of the component parties and the personal ambitions of their leaders.

The only way to educate people is with successive elections," said Khalid Rahman, a spokesman for the powerful, right-wing Party of Islam, which had warned that a woman leader would bring the wrath of God on Pakistan.

Moscow reneges on pledge to Poland over mass grave

WARSAW (R) — Soviet authorities have gone back on a pledge to let a medical team from Poland take part in exhuming a mass grave believed to contain Polish victims of Stalinist terror, a prosecutor has said.

"Contrary to an agreement earlier this month allowing Polish specialists to assist in a complete exhumation, regional Soviet officials now say a decision by Moscow is needed," Deputy Prosecutor-General Stefan Sniezko said on state television.

"The officials now speak only in terms of a partial probe, not the complete exhumation they had agreed to earlier."

Poland had sought to assist in exhuming a mass grave discovered last June near the Ukrainian city of Kharkov.

Ukrainian State Security said it contained the remains of 6,500 Polish soldiers and Soviet civilians killed by Stalin's NKVD secret police during World War II.

The NKVD captured 15,000 Polish soldiers in 1939 and is thought to have killed them the following year. The remains of

4,000 of them have been found in Katy Forest near the Russian city of Smolensk.

It was not until last April that the Kremlin, which had previously blamed the Germans for the Katyń massacre, admitted the NKVD's responsibility.

Meanwhile Polish Deputy Defense Minister Janusz Onyszkiewicz said Monday Soviet troops will leave Poland within two years.

He also said Warsaw Pact states failed to agree with the Soviet Union on the number of tanks they could retain under a European conventional arms treaty, planned to be signed in Vienna in November.

"We opt for a Western proposal giving us 8,000 tanks which is a big difference," Onyszkiewicz said. "We will continue talks and seek a compromise."

East Germany, the seventh member, left the Warsaw Pact Monday, ahead of unification with NATO member West Germany Oct. 3.

The official Czechoslovak News Agency CTK said Sunday a two-day Warsaw Pact meeting last week reached agreement on the number of aircraft each member would have but there was no accord on tanks, armoured vehicles and artillery.

Senior policeman Assad Farooqui said "someone from our ranks fired" and there would be an enquiry. He said his men were later ordered to fire in the air.

"The people were getting really violent. They pulled us out of our vehicles and smashed them. Even our wireless sets were taken away. It is then we fired," he told Reuters.

At least six buses and seven police vehicles were set on fire when violence escalated following the death of 20-year-old student Surjit Singh Chauhan from self-inflicted burns.

It was some of the worst violence in Delhi since protests erupted shortly after Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh announced the increase in reserved jobs for low caste Hindus, outcasts and people from small tribes on Aug. 7.

Most of the violence occurred about a mile from the hospital, but there were lesser outbreaks in other parts of the Indian capital.

Chauhan died in Delhi's Safdarjang Hospital after dousing himself in kerosene and striking a match near the building Monday in protest at the decision to raise to nearly half the number of civil servant jobs reserved for lower castes.

He was the first to die of several youths who have set fire to themselves in suicidal protests since last Wednesday.

And in a further swing to the conservatives, four leading reformists were voted off the 15-member ruling Supreme Council.

Dragomir Draganov, Valentin Vatshev, Asen Zhablenski and Petar-Emil Mitev, all leaders of ideological movements, lost their posts when they gained at a congress last February following the ousting of hardline communists.

Security was stepped up at government and political party buildings, Delhi University and major road crossings, which students have repeatedly blocked since Aug. 7.

Former party leader Petar Mladenov and ex-Defense Minister Dobri Dzhurov, who played leading roles in ousting Zhivkov last November, also lost their places on the Supreme Council.

So did Finance Minister Belcho Belchev, who has been involved in debt-ridden Bulgaria's bid to join the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Interior Minister Pencho Penev was retained despite assurances by the Socialists in parliament that the Interior Ministry would be de-politicised.

"We are talking about the de-politicisation of the ministry, not the minister," Lilov told Reuters.

Spokesmen for the reformist wing of the party had forecast a split or the party's complete collapse if Lilov were re-elected.

"With Lilov as leader, this is the end," one young reformist delegate said after the leadership vote was announced.

Western diplomats in Sofia said some reformists might split from the main party as soon as Saturday, during a conference organised by the radical factions.

Shortly after midnight, they said, diversionary grenades were lobbed into the McDonald's and officers moved in to make the arrest and rescue the seven remaining hostages.

Police Lt. Jim Crawford said the hostages might have included several children.

It was earlier believed two gunmen were inside the restaurant, without being detected," Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputy Bill Wehner said. "A deputy leaped over the counter and took the suspect into custody."

The gunman's name wasn't immediately disclosed.

The sheriff's 18-member special enforcement team had been called in to negotiate for the hostages' release. Dozens of police officers surrounded the restaurant.

La Verne is about 40 kilometres northeast of Los Angeles.

During the talks the Philippines said it wanted to recover control of Clark and the facilities other than Subic which the lease ends. Aquino told a press conference Monday that continued U.S. use of Subic, which services the U.S. Seventh Fleet, was negotiable.

Chief U.S. negotiator Richard Armitage suggested a gradual phasing out of U.S. forces that would allow a continued American presence in the next century.

Some Philippine officials want a complete American withdrawal in not more than five years.

Platt said there should be a transition period for the handing over of Clark and Subic, which employ 78,000 Filipino workers and inject \$1 billion a year into the Philippine economy.

"If you are going to develop alternative uses for the facilities, commercial use, joint use, or investment projects, this takes time, it takes planning, and if you do it too suddenly, it will disrupt the local economy," said Platt.

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